

USING A DEBUGGING FRAMEWORK TO ENFORCE BEST PRACTICES IN PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Disclosed are a tool and method for monitoring the behavior of a running computer program. The tool observes the behavior of a running program within the context of a large number of defined coding patterns, and automatically flags violations of the coding patterns when they occur. These defined coding patterns can include best practice patterns and problematic coding patterns. The tool, in the preferred embodiment of the invention, does this using a standard debugger to enforce the best practices rules. This is advantageous because debuggers contain the type of information needed both to enforce the rules and to explain the violations of the rules. Moreover, because debuggers are standard tools in developers' arsenal, little or no additional training is required for the user of the tool to detect subtle software defects.